

MILTON REIFSNIDER-W.L. SEABROOK HOUSE

194 and 196 EAST GREEN STREET

The significance of these two homes, 194 and 196 East Green Street is two-fold. First, they are fine examples of the L shaped house which was very popular in the area in the late 19th century. The porches on each house display fine typical woodwork (denticulated cornices are present on both, lazy brackets are on 194 and bowed wood trim running from pillar to pillar is to be found at 196's porch). In trim, in plan, and in volume the houses are firmly within this popular building pattern. The houses, however, are of further interest for the way they are sited and the way they form images of each other. Whether this was intended (it almost seems that it would have to have been) or not, the effect is today quite interesting.

Neither house is shown on the 1876 plat of the City, yet both houses are listed in the 1881 City Directory.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Milton Reifsnider-W.L. Seabrook House

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

194 and 196 East Green Street

CITY, TOWN

Westminster

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

7

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Carroll

3 CLASSIFICATION**CATEGORY**☐ DISTRICT☒ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT**OWNERSHIP**☐ PUBLIC☒ PRIVATE☐ BOTH**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED**STATUS**☒ OCCUPIED☐ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS**ACCESSIBLE**☒ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☐ NO**PRESENT USE**☐ AGRICULTURE☐ COMMERCIAL☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ GOVERNMENT☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ MILITARY☐ MUSEUM☐ PARK☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ RELIGIOUS☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ OTHER**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

(a) John McGrew (see no. 10)

Telephone #: 848-5817

STREET & NUMBER

165 David Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Westminster

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21157

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Carroll County Office Building

Liber #: 541

Folio #: 508

STREET & NUMBER

Center Street

CITY, TOWN

Westminster

STATE

Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

None

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION**CONDITION**

☐ EXCELLENT
☒ GOOD
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED
☐ RUINS
☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☒ UNALTERED
☐ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE
☐ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Although numbers 194 and 196 East Green Street (which front the south side of that street at the southwest corner of its intersection with Addlespurger Alley in Westminster) were built as independent houses (but probably the same man) and although their owners, prominent men in the late 19th century, would have probably thought of each house as being an independent unit, their interest today is as mirror images of each other.

Both houses are built in an L shape, consisting of two 2½ story gable roof perpendicular sections, the gable roof of the L forming section fronting the street; the open space on the street side being filled in by a one story porch. This was a very popular form in the City in the late 19th century (see, two examples, number 289 East Main Street and the Old Episcopal Rectory on Court Street). The two houses here are sited such that the bases of the T's almost touch and the cross sections of the T's are far apart, creating a long, by means of the porch, rectangle. The cross sections of each house are 3 bays wide; bays are regularly placed and all windows are of double hung sash windows paned two-over-two, simply enframed, and shuttered. The door, in each case, is the ground story bay closest to the L. Again in each case, the door consists of a panelled door flanked by smooth white pilasters and topped by a broad rectangular transom.

Each house has, on its L section, slightly different treatment. Number 196, the house formerly belonging to J. Milton Reifsnider, has two 2/2 windows per floor; windows have three coursed gauged flat arches and white wooden sills and shutters. The L on 194, however, has a three-sided two-story bay window projecting from it. Each exposed side of the bay has one 2/2 narrow window per floor. The bay is topped by a simple bracketed cornice. Both houses however, have a normal attic window within the respective street-fronting gable end. Broad corbel capped chimneys flush with the interior wall, almost meet where the houses almost touch, i.e. the west wall of 196 and the east wall of number 194. Each house also has a very massive corbel capped chimney in the center of the roofline where the two sections touch making the L. The L of each section has two regularly spaced double hung sash windows on its exposed sides. Number 196 is somewhat distinguished from 194 in its spade-topped picket fence. Otherwise, both houses in their siting, a few feet to the south of the street, below broad shade trees, are similar. In hue, 196 was originally a pale leonine color; the paint is now somewhat faded and is beginning to peel off the brick wall; 194 is a deep unpainted red brick.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES

c. 1880

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The significance of these two homes, 194 and 196 East Green Street is two-fold. First, they are fine examples of the L shaped house which was very popular in the area in the late 19th century. The porches on each house display fine typical woodwork (denticulated cornices are present on both, lazy brackets are on 194 and bowed wood trim running from pillar to pillar is to be found at 196's porch). In trim, in plan, and in volume the houses are firmly within this popular building pattern. The houses, however, are of further interest for the way they are sited and the way they form images of each other. Whether this was intended (it almost seems that it would have to have been) or not, the effect is today quite interesting.

Neither house is shown on the 1876 plat of the City, yet both houses are listed in the 1881 City Directory. This is unusual, as the title search makes it seem unlikely that the houses were built then. On September 24, 1881 William H. Bell acquired title to lot 7 of "Fisher's Addition", where 196 is located today. He paid \$181 for the lot, (Carroll County Deed Book 5, Page 539). On June 3, 1886 he sold the lot to John M. Reifsnider, often known as J. Milton Reifsnider for \$3000, surely indicating the presence of a house. On the same day, Bell bought the adjoining lot from George F. Beaver for \$400 (64/397). Thus we might assume that Bell was the builder, and, having made enough money on the sale of 196, he then bought the neighboring lot and built 194. If this supposition is true, then the similarity and form between the two houses is not accidental. The purchaser of 196, J. Milton Reifsnider, apparently had his family's interest in business, as he was prominent in the First National Bank of Westminster and the Carroll County Telephone Company. Socially and recreationally, he was a member of the forest and stream club. His widow, Elenor F. Reifsnider, (who had apparently moved to York County, Pennsylvania) sold 196 to Leta Riggs White on November 15, 1922 (141/101), who sold it to Erwin H. Ebaugh on April 30, 1940 (172/499). Ebaugh sold it to William O'Rourke on December 14, 1965 (399/388) who sold it to the present owner on May 11, 1973.

After Bell bought and presumably built the lot and house for 194 he must have run into difficulties, for a mortgage to W. Frank Thomas was foreclosed resulting in Thomas' selling the house to

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Being all of lots 6 and 7 of J. C. Frizzell's Addition to Westminster as shown on a plat recorded among the Land Records of Carroll County in Plat Book 1, Page 119.

(b) Owner for 196; John E. Lord 541 508

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Christopher Weeks, Consultant

October, 1977

ORGANIZATION

Westminster Historical Sites Survey

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

c/o City Hall - Public Works Department

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Westminster

STATE

Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

#8, continuation page 1.

William B. Thomas on December 12, 1902, (96/526), who sold to Charles F. Miller on December 29, 1908 for \$3,000 (110/222). Miller's widow, Nannie E. Miller, sold the place to Minnie Flohr and husband on September 30, 1927 (149/405), who sold to May C. Herring on June 18, 1942 (179/74). Ms. Herring sold to Raymond Benson on October 3, 1944 (184/440) who sold to David J. Ready four years later (200/239), who sold to John McKale on March 22, 1960 (317/453). McKale sold to the present owner on August 5, 1966.



CARR-518



CARR-5/8



CAR 518

498/0



CARR 518

194-196 East Green Street

I-10

4/4/19



CARR-518